

low-cost sugar that is used by consumers domestically and internationally. In fact, Americans on average spend over 20 percent less for sugar than consumers in other nations, and manufacturers pay roughly the same price for American sugar that they did in the 1980s.

American sugar growers last year produced 32,000 tons of sugar, 13,800 tons of which came from south Louisiana.

While sugar prices have remained flat for the past three decades, the cost of farming has not, as equipment, fuel, and fertilizer costs have all risen between 90 percent to 200 percent in that same timeframe.

□ 1045

We must protect the future of American sugar and American sugar farmers, American sugar farm families.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support American farmers and pass H.R. 2, the Agricultural and Nutrition Act of 2018, as amended, by the House Committee on Agriculture.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF CAPTAIN TIMOTHY A. TOBIASZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement and many distinguished accomplishments of Captain Timothy A. Tobiasz, Commanding Officer of the United States Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

Captain Tobiasz has honorably served our country with over 32 years of Active-Duty military service. His career began in the U.S. Army as a Black Hawk assault pilot, where he served in the 9th Cavalry Brigade, 9th Infantry Division "Old Reliables" at Fort Lewis, Washington.

In 1991, he was accepted to the United States Coast Guard's Officer Candidate School, commissioning as an ensign in 1992.

From there, he quickly rose to the rank of captain, and during his 32-year military career, Captain Tobiasz amassed over 7,000 flight hours and qualified in nine different aircraft, to include the MH-60 Jayhawk, MH-90 Hornet, HC-130 Hercules, MH-65 Dolphin, and the HC-144 Ocean Sentry.

He served at Coast Guard Air Stations Clearwater, Florida; San Diego, California; HITRON-10 Kodiak, Alaska; New Orleans, Louisiana; Savannah, Georgia; and Cape Cod, Massachusetts; and as the commanding officer of two bases.

In addition to his remarkable aviation career, Captain Tobiasz served in the U.S. Senate as a military liaison officer, as a budget and program reviewer at U.S. Coast Guard headquarters, a senior military adviser to the U.S. Northern Command/NORAD combatant commander, and a National

Security Fellow at the Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Of his many outstanding achievements during his storied career, I would like to highlight three.

In 1999, then-Lieutenant Tobiasz was one of only six pilots selected to pioneer Helicopter Interdiction Squadron 10. This successful concept led to one of the most significant policy changes in Coast Guard aviation history through the development of the aviation use of force policy and establishment of a permanent command in Jacksonville, Florida, now responsible for armed counterdrug operations around the entire globe.

In 2005, while serving as the operations officer at Coast Guard Air Station New Orleans, Lieutenant Commander Tobiasz led rescue operations during and immediately after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast, and in a 10-day period, aircrews under his leadership saved over 1,400 lives.

Most recently and just last year, Captain Tobiasz was called upon again to lead air rescue operations following landfall of Hurricane Harvey over Texas and Louisiana. Thanks in great part to his extraordinary coordination and unflappable judgment, he strategically directed 53 aircraft and 415 aviation personnel for 21 different units, saving lives of over 1,700 civilians.

Mr. Speaker, I join a very grateful Nation in thanking Captain Timothy Tobiasz and his family for their service and sacrifice, and wish them the absolute very best in their next careers.

A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "DON" THOMAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I would like to recognize one of my constituents in Pennsylvania's Third Congressional District, Mr. William "Don" Thomas, who will make history this evening when he becomes the oldest student to ever graduate from Butler County Community College, also known as BC3.

Mr. Thomas began taking classes at BC3 in the fall of 2010, and this evening, at 80 years old, he will proudly receive an associate of arts degree in history.

Furthermore, Mr. Thomas also represents the most senior graduate in the class of 2018 among our State's four other western institutions within the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges.

Now, you have got to know something about Mr. Thomas. He is an Air Force veteran who honorably served our country as an Airman Second Class with the 17th Squadron.

I want you to think about something. This man, while serving in France from 1956 to 1959, enrolled in classes provided by the University of Maryland held

outside the northeastern French town where he was stationed, and while there, he earned 28 credits.

All these years later, following a successful life and career, Mr. Thomas decided to enroll at BC3 in order to finish the degree he started in 1956.

Mr. Thomas credits much of his academic success to BC3, which has been rated the top community college in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in back-to-back surveys.

BC3 president, Dr. Nick Neupauer, is beyond proud of Mr. Thomas and believes his accomplishment is symbolic for the entire community college.

Now, additionally, Don Thomas receives an abundance of love and support and encouragement from his beloved wife, Nancy; their six children; their eight grandchildren; and their four great grandchildren.

Can you imagine tonight's graduation ceremony when he stands there with all those people and receives his degree?

Now, Mr. Thomas was not a traditional college student. He inevitably faced obstacles along the way, but regardless of the circumstances, he never abandoned his goal of earning his degree.

Mr. Thomas reminds all of us that, with faith, hard work, and determination, anything is possible. Mr. Thomas embodies the spirit of a lifelong learner and is a living testament to the saying: "If there is a will, there is a way."

His unwavering dedication, passion, and perseverance in pursuit of his dream is not only inspiring and amazing, it is quintessentially American. It is who we are as the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I am so blessed to be able to stand on the floor of the people's House today and congratulate Mr. Thomas on a job well done and count him as one of our district's finest constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I say to Mr. Thomas: Happy graduation day. Happy graduation day.

MOTHER'S DAY, GRADUATIONS, DREAMERS, AND PUBLIC HOUSING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to begin discussion on the floor for issues that, I think, against the backdrop of Mother's Day, the desire to be family friendly in this Nation, and really to answer the question of Americans: Can our government do well by them?

So I raise to the body how we can be more constructive, and I do it on the basis, as we all do, when we go home and interact with our constituents, and so I did as I went home this past weekend a couple of days in the midst of the exciting graduations that we all had a chance to go to and to make remarks, and I want to congratulate those students that I had the privilege of being and speaking at their graduations, the